

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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A 1
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1. A sheet folding apparatus for folding the
sheet by nipping and conveying a sheet by a pair of
folding rollers and, wherein at least one of the pair
of folding rollers has large-diameter portion and
small-diameter portion along an axis thereof. *via grooves*
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2. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim
1, wherein a large-diameter portion for nipping and
10 conveying the sheet is provided at a sheet convey
center portion of the roller. *F. 2-4*

3. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim
2, wherein the large-diameter portion is provided at
15 the sheet convey center portion such that a width of
the large-diameter portion in the axis direction, which
is provided at the sheet convey center portion of the
folding roller is substantially 1/2 of a minimum width
of a sheet size foldable in the sheet folding
20 apparatus. *F. 2-4*

4. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim
3, wherein the large-diameter portion of the roller is
positioned outside a movable range of a maximum-size
25 sheet in the apparatus.

5. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim

1, wherein a predetermined gap is formed between the rollers at a convey nip between the pair of folding rollers. *F. 1, 384*

5 6. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a predetermined gap is formed between the rollers at a convey nip between the pair of folding rollers.

10 7. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined gap between the rollers is set smaller than a thickness of three sheets conveyed to the nip. *F. 3 84*

15 8. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined gap between the rollers is set smaller than a thickness of three sheets conveyed to the nip.

20 9. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim *ENG* 1, wherein the large-diameter portion of the roller is tapered.

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25 10. A sheet folding apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the large-diameter portion of the roller includes a taper.

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